



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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City Public Works Department Installs Survey Correction Network *Surveyors access 'CORS' data for improved positional accuracy*

(Houston, Texas) – The City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department announced today that it has purchased and implemented new technology that utilizes data from global positioning satellites and the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) section of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to aid surveyors in decreasing the margin of error in their measurements.

The technology, known as the Continually Operating Reference Station system (CORS), consists of seven stations located around the city that continuously take readings from a network of global positioning satellites. The system then logs the calculated position from the satellite data and the true position from the NGS data. Surveyors then access the two data sets from the CORS system via the Public Works Department website to calculate a correction factor for their measurements.

Before the implementation of the CORS system, the city required surveyors to use the existing over 5,300 survey monuments in place throughout the city when taking their measurements. Many of the survey monuments are no longer accurate due to subsidence and ground movement. The cost to correct the existing 5,300 monuments is estimated to be \$8 million. Additional costs would be incurred to regularly maintain the markers at the correct positions. The CORS system, installed at a cost of approximately \$570,000 and requiring less than \$20,000 per year to maintain, replaces the need to continually upgrade the survey monuments.

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